

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

African American History Month

When he conceived of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in 1915, Carter G. Woodson believed that publishing scientific history about the black race would produce facts that would prove to the world that Africa and its people had played a crucial role in the development of civilization. As a Harvard-trained historian, Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that the truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. He thus established a scholarly journal, *The Journal of Negro History*, a year after he formed the ASNLH.

The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all color on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture. In 1976, fifty years after the first celebration, the Association held the first Black History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then each American president has issued Black History Month proclamations. And the Association -- now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) -- continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

month

National African American History Month, 2008

A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

During National African American History Month, we honor the achievements and celebrate the rich heritage of African Americans.

Throughout our Nation's history, African Americans from all walks of life have offered their talents to the betterment of American society. Scholars such as Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois were early leaders who placed great importance on educating all people about the need for justice and racial equality. Athletes such as Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson persevered while breaking the color barrier and competing at the highest levels of sports. Musicians like Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday lifted the American spirit with their creativity and musical gifts. Through their extraordinary accomplishments, these leaders helped bring our Nation closer to fulfilling its founding ideals.

This year's theme, "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism," honors an educator who taught his fellow citizens about the traditions and contributions of African Americans. His dedication to educating Americans about cultural diversity initiated this celebration of African-American history. Our Nation is now stronger and more hopeful because generations of leaders like him have worked to help America live up to its promise of equality and the great truth that all of God's children are created equal.

Throughout African American History Month, we celebrate the many contributions African Americans have made to our Nation, and we are reminded of their courage in their struggle to change the hearts and minds of our citizens. While much progress has been made, we must continue to work together to achieve the promise and vision of our great Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2008 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH



PRESIDENTS` DAY

The birthday of George Washington, military leader of the American Revolution and first President of the United States, has been a legal holiday since 1885. It was originally celebrated each February 22. The Uniform Holidays Act, passed by Congress in 1968 to take effect in 1971, fixed the holiday on a Monday. As a number of states also celebrated the February 12 birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President, some legislators advocated combining the two events into a single holiday. The final legislation retained the Washington's Birthday holiday but many Americans now call the holiday "Presidents' Day," believing the change to Mondays was intended to honor both Washington and Lincoln or all Presidents.

<http://www.america.gov/st/pubs-english/2005/June/20050622162912liameruoy0.4261591.html>

At the American Corner Tetovo

Presidents` Day Quiz, Saturday February 16, 2008, at 13:00 o'clock

** Sign up and win a prize **

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

(February 14th)

The History of Valentine's Day

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.



<http://www>

[sites/valentine/viewPage?pageId=882](http://www.sites/valentine/viewPage?pageId=882)

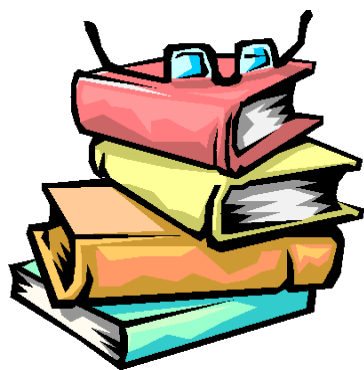
At the American Corner Tetovo

Reading Love Poems, February 14, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

*** Sign up to attend***

BOOKS WE PREFER YOU TO READ THIS MONTH

- *"Up from slavery"* – Booker T. Washington
- *"Incidents in the life of a slave girl"*– Harriet Jacobs
- *"Many thousands gone- the first two centuries of slavery in north America"*– Ira Berlin
- *"The souls of black folk"*– W.E.B Du Bois
- *"Open wide the freedom gates"*– Dorothy Height
- *"Presidents from Theodore Roosevelt through Coolidge, 1901-1929"*– Francine Sanders Romero
- *"Presidents from Hoover through Truman, 1929-1953"*– John E. Moser
- *"Presidents from Reagan through Clinton 1981-2001"*– Lane Crothers
- *"The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford"*– John Robert Greene
- *"The Presidency of George Bush"*– John Robert Greene



Many thanks to **Amy Storrow** and **Ryan Rowlands** - PAO
Officers from the US Embassy in Skopje for the donation of books

AMERICAN CORNER TETOVO

FEBRUARY MONTHLY PROGRAM 2008

Friday February 1, 2008, Whole week event

Paper show and book display in honor of African American History Month

"Portraits of a New Generation: African-American Leaders Living the Legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Tuesday February 5, 2008, at 11:00 o'clock

Цхилдрен Стопстеллинг Хоур Ы Ыиѝх ПЦВ Цаиѝлин Сѝееле

Tuesday February 5, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Conversation Hour – With PCV Ana Schafer- **Please sign in to attend**

Wednesday February 6, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Video Showing – Series "America Beyond The Color Line"- with Henry Louis Gats, Jr. episode 1 "The Black Belt"

Monday February 11, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Presentation by Peace Corps Volunteer Melissa Hauke

"Black Americans and their Contributions to the World"

Tuesday February 12, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Conversation Hour – With PCV Ana Schafer- **Please sign in to attend**

Wednesday February 13, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Video Showing – Series "America Beyond The Color Line" - with Henry Louis Gats, Jr. episode 2 "Streets of Heaven"

Thursday February 14, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Poetry reading in observance of St. Valentines Day - With PCV Melissa Hauke

Saturday February 16, 2008, at 13:00 o'clock

President`s Day Quiz Contest – ** Sign up and win a prize **

Tuesday February 19, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Conversation Hour – With PCV Ana Schafer- **Please sign in to attend**

Wednesday February 20, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Video Showing – Series "America Beyond The Color Line" with Henry Louis Gats, Jr. episode 3 "Ebony Towers"

AMERICAN CORNER TETOVO

FEBRUARY MONTHLY PROGRAM 2008

Tuesday February 26, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Conversation Hour – With PCV Ana Schafer - ****Please sign in to attend****

Wednesday February 27, 2008, at 18:00 o'clock

Video Showing – Series "America Beyond The Color Line" - with Henry Louis Gats, Jr.
episode 4 "Black Hollywood"

Please Note: American Corner Tetovo will be closed

on Monday February 18st in observance of Presidents' Day

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY PROGRAM



After the Official opening of the American Corner in Tetovo, on January 18th, 2008, we planned an **Open House Day**, so citizens of our city can stop by and inform about the activities and services the Corner has to offer. We were surprised by the big numbers of people that showed a huge interest for the Corner. We informed them what an American Corner is, what are the activities for this month, what can the Corner do for them and other staff related with the Corner.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY PROGRAM

This week the Corner provided two sessions of the **conversation hour**. The first one was held on 22th with PCV **Anastasia Schafer**. Four members attended this hour. They talked for one hour about themselves, about their jobs and things related with their personality. The first session was more like an introduction between the PCV Ana and the participants. The second session, included 6 members. The topic was travelling. The participants talked about the places they have been to, their experiences, what they have liked most. This session held on 24th with PCV **Melissa Hauke**.

The participants were very grateful for this kind of hours, because they can improve the English and they can change experiences with each-other.



The first **video showing** at the American Corner Tetovo was held on January 23, 2008, from the series of 7 episodes “About America” by Ken Burns`. The first episode was

“**The Statue of Liberty**” and eleven participants enjoyed this documentary. They had the opportunity to learn more about the Statue, about its history, construction and its meaning. The ACT staff prepared hand outs for all participants with the description of the episode. At the end, they promised to attend all the video showings the Corner will provide

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY PROGRAM

The American Corner Tetovo on January 28th, started with the activities for and about **children**. We arranged a class with their teacher to attend this hour from the primary school “Istikball” – Tetovo. 26 children took place and the program was run by PCV **Caitlin Steele**. She read three stories: *The Mitten*; *Curious George* and *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No good, Very Bad Day*. The children enjoyed the stories and they asked lots of questions in the end of reading. Results: Since this was the first generation to start with English classes from the 4th grade, as obliged language, it was very positive step towards learning new words in English, as they did learn some new animals, which where part of the stories.



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